

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus, comprising:
retrieving means for retrieving, from an information signal, a detection signal for detecting digital watermark information;
communicating means for transmitting the detection signal to another apparatus and receiving a processed result for the digital watermark information detected from the detection signal;
controlling means for performing control so as to restrict processing of the information signal, based on the processed result; and
storing means for storing the processed result in a manner capable of communicating with another apparatus.
2. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the detection signal comprises a component selected from, of content information for detecting the digital watermark information, components needed for the detection.
3. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controlling means generates a warning when an improper condition for executing processing on the

information signal is detected based on the processed result.

4. An information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the controlling means generates a varied warning in accordance with the number of detections of the improper condition.

5. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when an improper condition for executing processing on the information signal is detected based on the processed result, the controlling means imposes a restriction on a capability of processing the information signal in accordance with the number of detections of the improper condition.

6. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the retrieving means retrieves the detection signal in accordance with the setting of a predetermined parameter.

7. An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined parameter selectively sets a portion having a high distribution rate to the detection of relevant information based on the detection signal.

8. An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined parameter sets a frequency band filter that passes a frequency band of relevant information.

9. An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined parameter sets the range of playback time of an information signal on which relevant information is superimposed.

10. An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined parameter sets the range of a frame or field of playback video of an information signal on which relevant information is superimposed.

11. An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined parameter sets the range of pixels for playback video of an information signal on which relevant information is superimposed.

12. An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined parameter sets a level range of a playback signal of an information signal on which relevant information is superimposed.

13. An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined parameter sets a level range of a band-separated playback signal of an information signal on which relevant information is superimposed.

14. An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined parameter selectively sets an intra picture of a group-of-picture structure when an information signal on which relevant information is superimposed is compressed and encoded in compliance with a motion picture experts group 2 standard.

15. An information processing method, comprising:

- a retrieving step of retrieving, from an information signal, a detection signal for detecting digital watermark information;
- a communicating step of transmitting the detection signal to another apparatus and receiving a processed result for the digital watermark information detected from the detection signal;
- a controlling step of performing control so as to restrict processing of the information signal, based on the processed result; and
- a storing step of storing the processed result in a

manner capable of communicating with another apparatus.

16. An information processing method according to claim 15, wherein the detection signal comprises a component selected from, of content information for detecting the digital watermark information, components needed for the detection.

17. An information processing method according to claim 15, wherein the controlling step generates a warning when an improper condition for executing processing on the information signal is detected based on the processed result.

18. An information processing method according to claim 17, wherein the controlling step generates a varied warning in accordance with the number of detections of the improper condition.

19. An information processing method according to claim 15, wherein, when an improper condition for executing processing on the information signal is detected based on the processed result, the controlling step imposes a restriction on a capability of processing the information signal in accordance with the number of detections of the improper condition.

20. An information processing method according to claim 15, wherein the retrieving step retrieves the detection signal in accordance with the setting of a predetermined parameter.

21. An information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the predetermined parameter selectively sets a portion having a high distribution rate to the detection of relevant information based on the detection signal.

22. An information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the predetermined parameter sets a frequency band filter that passes a frequency band of relevant information.

23. An information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the predetermined parameter sets the range of playback time of an information signal on which relevant information is superimposed.

24. An information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the predetermined parameter sets the range of a frame or field of playback video of an information

signal on which relevant information is superimposed.

25. An information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the predetermined parameter sets the range of pixels for playback video of an information signal on which relevant information is superimposed.

26. An information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the predetermined parameter sets a level range of a playback signal of an information signal on which relevant information is superimposed.

27. An information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the predetermined parameter sets a level range of a band-separated playback signal of an information signal on which relevant information is superimposed.

28. An information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the predetermined parameter selectively sets an intra picture of a group-of-picture structure when an information signal on which relevant information is superimposed is compressed and encoded in compliance with a motion picture experts group 2 standard.